

# THE LIVING LIGHT

*For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*  
Ephesians 5:9

Volume 56, Number #5

Whittier First Friends Church

Fifth Month, 2017

## #ResistInjustice

### Our Spring Lobby Weekend Experience

I had the privilege and pleasure to attend the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Spring Lobby Weekend with my father Mel Sturr, my younger sister Bella Sturr, and F(f)riend Kat Ryder. We had an amazing experience, and were blessed in many unexpected ways during this trip.

We made the long journey to Washington D.C. and spent a night in Baltimore to sleep off flight, and the following day we boarded the train to the nation's capital. As surprise guest speaker Keith Ellison (D-MN) said, D.C. was built to be intimidating to visiting foreign leaders. That is exactly how I felt stepping out of Union Station—everything about the city is a little bit daunting. After checking into the hotel (following a very terrifying taxi ride), we headed over to the Washington Plaza Hotel where the conference was held. We walked the half mile to the hotel, and in 30-degree weather, this Angelino was freezing. Once we arrived, I was surprised to find that not one but two of my fellow 2012 Quaker Youth Pilgrims were also attending, so I had a great little reunion.

The conference was one of the most well-organized event I have been to. We dove right into the material, quickly discovering we had a lot to learn

*Continued on page 7*



*Friends have joined thousands of citizens on Maundy Thursday seeking solutions to the ongoing challenges of See page 6 for how we are working to provide a safe space for all members of our community.*



*Passionate Palms was the message on Palm Sunday. Friends were asked to share where their passions lie, and see how they relate to each other and to the world. What is your passion? Earth graphic designed by Philip Wright.*

**hash•tag** (haSHtag) *noun*

A word or phrase on social media sites such as Twitter preceded by a hash or pound sign (#) and used to identify messages on a specific topic. #notallfriendsusesocialmediaandthatsperfectlyok

*A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CALLED TO LISTEN, GATHERED TO SEEK PEACE AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE*

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

*Dear Friends,* The Friendly Fare in *The Living Light* is the place to share with your First Friends family the non-church events that happen in your life. This can include holiday news, family news, travels, milestones, special projects, celebrations, special events, and school or work news. When you travel, take *The Living Light* with you and take a picture of you and your travel group. We welcome your submissions.

**New Friends:** Here is **Joshua David Rollins**, born January 3 and adopted January 5th by **Ian & Heather Rollins**. **Ian** is the son of **Sharon & Dale Rollins**. Sharon reports "we're all just so grateful that God has placed him in our lives." Joshua and his folks live in Salem OR, just a 45 minute drive from Sharon, who is enjoying spending every Tuesday with him as "Grandma Day Care."



Twins **Annabelle Grace Day** and **Adrian Matthew Day** arrived March 30, and all are healthy and happy. They are the daughter and son of **Stacy (Bouchard) & Adam Day** and grandchildren of **Carrin & George Bouchard**. **Matt Bouchard** is their uncle. **Melissa (Nelson) & Dan Martinez** are anticipating the arrival of their second child, **Jordan**, in June.

**Friends Visit:** Visiting Meeting for Worship in March was **Karen Wilkinson** of Flint MI, recently retired from the faculty of Kettering University, who stays with a brother in Whittier when she comes to California for Chapman University business and alumni events. It was also good to see **Judy Wood**. She now lives in Indiana near her daughter. **Margaret Heaton Holland Bakker**, a 1948 graduate of Whittier College, celebrated her 90th birthday in Whittier in April, and attended Meeting for Worship accompanied by three of her four children, **Elisabeth**, **Mark** and **David Holland**. **Elinore Petoletti** knew her at Whittier College. Margaret had good memories of First Friends and mentioned remembering **Don & Ruth Beede** and **Peggy Paull**. Margaret is now a retired teacher living in Lakewood CO. **Lynda & Mike Ladwig** were visited by their granddaughter, **Krystal Ladwig-Barndt**, from Pennsylvania. **Carol Marshburn's** spring visit to her parents, **Ted & Mary Marshburn**, from Maine included a drive with them to her brother **Paul's** house in Phoenix, and a get-together there with her daughter **Olivia**.

**Sammye Vore** was a Marshburn Easter Sunday dinner guest and came to Meeting for Worship with them. She and her husband **Charles Vore** were Friends missionaries in Guatemala. She is now living at Rowntree Gardens (formerly known as Quaker Gardens). She is 98 years old!

**Friends About Town:** News from Morningside, Fullerton: They just completed the yearly "putting tournament" with our member **Don Votaw** reaching 2nd place and **Shirley Votaw** receiving honorable mention for a near-top honor. Other Friends who enjoyed watching from the side lines were **Gloria Rice**, **Mary Raymond**, **Jack & Helen Carlisle**, **Les & Ruth Marshall**, and **Marygene Wright**. Soon to join them at Morningside is **Joyce Darrow**, who is moving from Bakersfield. News from **Browny (Wanda) Henley** is that she has moved to Aurora, CO. If you'd like to get in touch, our office has her new address.

**School and Work News:** **Anathea Woirhaye** received third place in a recent Shakespeare competition and moved onto the finals at Cal Poly. **Cassie Caringella** and **Lea Wright** went to a recent national Jamberry event where they visited with the fabulous Christina Stark, the National Sales Manager. It was a very exciting moment for Cassie because Christina is Cassie's Jamberry idol, and she remembered Cassie from a previous visit a year and a half ago!

**Friends Celebrate:** Friends who attended the Rose Hills Easter sunrise service and enjoyed **Loletta Barrett** bringing the pastoral message included **Sabron & Bob Newton**, **Linda & Jim Flournoy**, **Milt & Donna Wright**, **Candice Ryder & Ashley Ryder**, **Dan & Lea Wright** and **Cassie Caringella**. Friends recently enjoyed a wedding shower for **Sami Sanchez** our soprano soloist. **Jack & Sharon Huffaker** celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss on April 22.

**Friends Remember:** Longtime member **Glenus Redman Bateman**, who was born in Whittier, died in Virginia on March 23 at 88, but has been buried at Rose Hills. A graduate of Whittier High School and Whittier College, she taught for 27 years at Laurel Elementary School in the East Whittier School District. After retiring in 1990, she and her husband spent most of each year in Arlington VA to be near their grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, **Bill** and sons **John** and **Paul**.

**Friends Sharing News:** Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at [lealouw@gmail.com](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!

## This Month in Meeting for Worship

May 7	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>The Founder and His Sheep</i> 1 Peter 2:19-25, Acts 2:42-47
May 14	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Being Truth</i> Acts 6:8, 10, 13-14, 7:1-2a, 51, 54, 55, 57, John 14:1-14
May 21	Lynda Ladwig brings the message <i>Lesson of a Simple Stick</i> Exodus 4:1-20
May 28	Lynda Ladwig brings the message <i>Contemplating God's Love</i> 1 Cor 13



At Monthly Meeting in April, we engaged in discussion of how our Meeting can address immigration and deportation policies. A number of actions were suggested, including the approval of a minute affirming First Friends' working to ensure the human rights of all people. See page 6 for the text of this minute.

The Board of Trustees are working with Broadoaks School to repair classrooms damaged by an electrical fire in March.

The next Monthly Meeting is May 7. Carrin Bouchard will prepare the meal.

## For the Children in Our Lives

Peace Camp is July 24-28. This year's theme is Creating Peace Through the Arts and features activities focusing on creating art including field trips, games and crafts, music and storytelling.

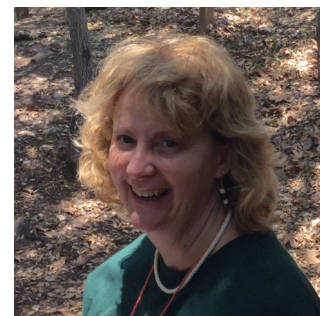
Parents and friends of young people who will be in 1st grade through 8th grade in the fall are encouraged to let the children in their lives know about this opportunity.

Registration forms will be available at Founders Day in Central Park and in Founders Court.

**We welcome and encourage your comments as well as your contributions and photos for inclusion in *The Living Light*. Kindly send your email to Elisabeth Elliot at [communiquaker@gmail.com](mailto:communiquaker@gmail.com).**

## Loletta's Lines

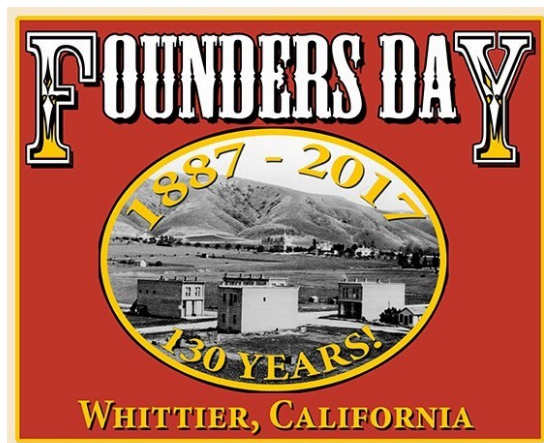
I have been thinking about where we go when we are "sent forth to serve." Following Jesus' resurrection and forty days with the disciples, he told them to go be "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) The stories we have in the Bible indicate the eleven, plus Matthias, remained in Jerusalem. It was the convert Paul, who traveled in Anatolia and around the Aegean Sea, though Paul says Peter did make at least one visit to Antioch. At that time, "the ends" were awfully close, and "the world" was small.



We can only speculate why they initially remained in Jerusalem. Perhaps their first priority was fulfilling Jesus' words "Go not to Gentiles or Samaritans but to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matthew 10:5-6). The second was "Teach all nations... to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20). From Bible stories we have, supporting the Jerusalem church and establishing orthodoxy were important issues. Perhaps even more motivation to go out came from persecution or after Paul's success. Later tradition is filled with stories about disciples traveling to the former Soviet Union, Greece, Scotland, Syria, India, Persia, Armenia, Southern Arabia, and Ethiopia. All over, to the ends of their world.

What can we learn from this? First, it seems important to start from a solid, sturdy base, and it is vitally important to have a ministry that keeps the home fires burning. Many of our committees serve the needs of our meeting. But the rest of our ministry is outward bound to the world—next door at the schools, down the street at the Soup Hour, in Whittier through the Cold Weather Shelter and Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter, in our community through the Interfaith Food Center, in our state and country through Friends Committee for Legislation California, Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee and in our world through Ramallah School, with Belize Friends, and Friends Theological College in Kenya. We are fortunate to have both inward and outward ministries here. When we stay balanced, we are faithful to Jesus' instructions to serve both our own family and go out to serve to the ends of the world.





## Join Us in Central Park!

First Friends will help celebrate Founders Day on May 6 in Central Park for fellowship and information sharing. Christian Education, Outreach, and Ministry and Counsel will all be represented and will again provide free water to our neighbors. Friends are eager to talk with community members about our programs, including Peace Camp this summer.

In response to inquiries by young people in our Meeting and in the community, Ministry and Counsel will provide information regarding Selective Service. Registration for the draft is a subject on many minds, as is how to honor one's Inner Light by becoming a Conscientious Objector. It's a many-layered topic and First Friends is working to explore options and the balance of conscience and responsibility in a militaristic world.

—*Elisabeth Elliot*



## PEACE CAFÉ

**Saturday, May 13**  
**Doors open at 6:00pm**

An evening of social justice  
through music, poetry, art, conversation  
and fellowship

Cabaret performances  
by award-winning singers and songwriters plus open mic  
Art boutique and information forum  
featuring local artists and social justice organizations  
A variety of coffees, teas and appetizers  
served throughout the evening  
Buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m.

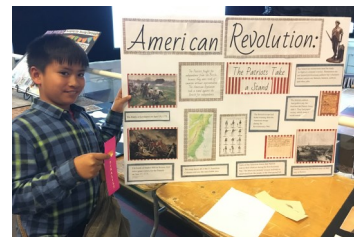
**Admission is free**  
Pay-what-you-will donations are appreciated



## News from Whittier Friends School

Once again, Whittier Friends School students “made history” at History Day LA. This was our fifth year taking part in the Los Angeles County history competition, which was held this year on Saturday, March 25.

Our school submitted three history projects. Sixth grader Shreeya Dhawal was awarded a medal and the honor of being runner-up for the state-wide competition, for her original play about Gandhi, which she performed using puppets she made.



Receiving finalist ribbons for their posters were fourth grader Matthew Horbino (The American Revolution) and fourth grader Elyse Woirhaye (Taking a Stand: The Ivory Ban). This was our first year having all entries awarded with a ribbon or medal, and our first time having one of our students honored as a state runner-up.



Rather than simply a summarization or report of history, History Day LA asks students to analyze a historical topic of personal interest, and discuss how it relates to a specific theme.

This year, hundreds of projects explored the theme of “Taking a Stand in History.” It was exciting for our small school to see the elaborate and creative projects made by other students in upper elementary, middle school, and high school. In spite of the hard work, it is a rewarding experience every year.

—*Cassie Caringella*



# May 2017

	<b>1</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>2</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8:00p M&C	<b>3</b> 10:00a Personnel Committee 6:30p Business & Finance Committee	<b>4</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10:00a Rio Hondo Symphony Guild Concert Preview 4:30p Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship 6:30p Family Movie Night – <i>Queen of Katwe</i>	<b>6</b> 9:00a Founders Day Celebration at Central Park
<b>7</b> 12:15p Monthly Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>9</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:00p AFFN	<b>11</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 4:30p Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship	<b>13</b> 6:00p Peace Café
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>16</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 4:30p Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship	<b>20</b> 9:00a Monthly Mission/Serve Weekend
<b>21</b> 12:30p Christian Education Committee 3:00p New Century Singers Concert	<b>22</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>23</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 4:30p Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 12:15p Music Committee 12:30p Outreach Committee	<b>29</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>30</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b>		<b>Schedule for Sundays</b> <b>Unprogrammed Worship — 9:30a</b> <b>Meetings for Learning — 9:30a</b> <b>Friends Choir Rehearsal — 9:30a</b> <b>Meeting for Worship — 11:00a</b>	



If we've missed your birthday, we apologize (and happy birthday)! We're working hard to keep our birthday calendar up-to-date so please let us know if we're forgetting anyone. Thank you!

Ami Troedsson  
Amy Wright  
Anathea Woirhaye  
Anthony Manousos  
Chris Quarnstrom  
David Ellis

Liz Ellis  
Ellen Wright  
Gina Natoli  
Jean Sponsler  
John Marshburn  
Maggie Leon

Melissa Jones  
Sami Sanchez  
Tammy Van Dorn  
Tim Root



## A Way is Opening to Safe Space

The Spirit is leading and opening a way! Friends have had on their hearts and in their prayers a concern about the immigration system and the implementation of immigration laws.

It began with Friends who had concerns for refugees and immigrants, parents and children, strangers and friends.

In a December Meeting for Worship, Jamie Benjamin, Becky Overmyer-Velazquez and Loletta Barrett led us in a simulated refugee experience. In April, Becky and Loletta met with the Dean of Students at Whittier College to discuss working together to support students who have temporary status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) families and friends. Then, in Monthly Meeting we were moved to affirm a minute of safe space, with a list of potential action items for Friends to consider for the future.

The first action occurred on Maundy Thursday when Loletta and Pat were moved to participate in the Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) interfaith action. The action was a walk to the Los Angeles Immigration Federal Detention Center with friends from every faith in compassionate witness against injustice. The second action followed directly after Easter, when a group of Friends (Loletta, Becky, Pat, Elisabeth Elliot, JoNita Beede, and Gwen Woirhay, along with Jennifer Perez, another Friend and wife of the Dean), attended Know Your Rights training with the Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley, a community ministry housed at Jennifer's church Mountainside Communion in Monrovia. The training provided critical information. It was eye-opening and sobering, challenging and hope-inspiring. It presented a foundation for understanding the issues that challenge the rights of everyone in our country.

Where to next? First, prayer and listening to the Spirit as to how we are to bring these issues to attention within the Meeting, discern appropriate action and share with the community around us. Where will the Spirit lead? We don't have a map, but as we step out in faith, sent forth to serve together, we know the path leads to the safe space we are called to be.

—Loletta Barrett

## A Minute of Safe Space

First Friends Church, a Quaker meeting, affirms that it is a place of welcome, refuge, and healing for those made vulnerable by immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and that we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people. We pledge to follow the Spirit and our long tradition as the Religious Society of Friends to offer material and pastoral support, and to connect with other local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights groups and coalitions, and engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, and direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community.

### Alternatives to Violence Project

Basic Workshop

May 27, 2017



The Basic Workshop engages in interactive practices designed to enhance awareness, self-esteem, nonviolent communication, conflict transformation, and community building. Open to all members of the community.

Donation \$25-125.

Visit [www.avpla.com](http://www.avpla.com) for registration information

## Eliminating Nuclear Weapons

Carol Urner is leaving for her six months in Portland, Oregon in mid-May. She is presently working with women organizing marches globally on June 17 to welcome final negotiations of the UN treaty banning nuclear weapons. 133 nations are already involved in negotiating this historic treaty in the UN General Assembly and hope it can be ready for ratification and implementation by mid-July. The nine nuclear nations, including the United States, are resisting or openly opposing these negotiations. It is hoped that vast majority of nations can push the nuclear powers into finally eliminating these most inhumane of all weapons and thus make a long step toward general and complete disarmament. Carol is happy to share more information about this treaty, which is strongly supported globally by Pope Francis, the Catholic Church and most "mainline" Protestant churches.



On Wednesday, May 10, we look forward to having John Garside, executive producer of “How the Canyon Got its Name” bring us this interesting program about Turnbull Canyon some of Whittier’s local history. John Garside has also produced several other documentary films that focus on the little known history in and around the old Rancho La Puente and Whittier area.

Potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with the program to follow at 7 p.m. Sign up in Founders Court to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 per person with food or \$3 per person if you do not bring food but will be joining us for dinner. There is no charge for children 12 or under accompanied by their parents.

—Ted Marshburn

**The New Century Singers present**



**Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m.**  
**in the Meeting House**  
 A free will offering will be taken

### On Our Calendar...

Picnics in the Park	Wednesdays, June 21—August 9
Summer Film Series	Friday evenings, June 30 through August 25
Summer Worship schedule	July 2—September 3
Peace Camp	July 24—28

*Spring Lobby Weekend continued from page 1*

before we actually hit Capitol Hill. The topic for the conference was protecting Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which are directly under attack by upcoming bills and will continue to be under attack under the current administration. Quickly, we realized how important speaking out on these issues was and that we could not stand by and let these lifesaving provisions be decimated.

The first question that I think everyone in

*Continued next column*

attendance had was what exactly is a lobbyist? Lobbying has a bad reputation; as most people associate lobbyists with highly-paid corporate lobby organizations that attempt to buy votes from members of Congress. In reality, lobbying is the simple act of constituents talking to their representatives. Anyone can lobby, and it is a vital part of making sure the voices of the community are heard.

The second question we had was how exactly do we talk to our representatives? It is a fairly daunting task, and FCNL prepared us well. We spent three days preparing for our visit to Capitol Hill. We were trained on how to share stories to connect the issues to the concerns and real life experience of the constituents. We also learned about the issues and became well-versed in what Medicaid and SNAP actually do and the threats of eliminating and undermining them with block grants and per capita caps.

On the actual lobby day, I believe that every one of you would have been proud of our representation of First Friends. We met with the other Californians from all over the state and met with staffers of Senators Feinstein and Harris in the morning. In the afternoon, the four of us met with Representative Linda Sanchez’ staff. My dad and I shared our story of how legislation that protects patient rights has personally saved my life. Kat shared her experience with state-funded health care and the impact on foster children. Bella took the lead on guiding the discussion with Representative Sanchez and wrote the briefing for the FCNL staff on our visit. I was so proud of these 16-year-olds for jumping right into leadership roles. I believe our stories are powerful, and the staffers responded positively and were encouraging when they promised us that their respective representatives were committed to fight for health care and food justice.

Two days after people from 40 different states lobbied their congressional representatives with FCNL, the American Health Care Act, which would have undermined Medicaid, failed to be brought to a vote. That was a major victory. Did the lobbyists make that difference? It is impossible to say for sure, but I would like to believe we were a part of that. People raising their voice to Congress to stand up for the rights of all of us made that difference, and will continue to make that difference.

Spring Lobby Weekend gave us the tools to continue to advocate and be a voice for justice in this country.

—Jasmine Sturr



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# Music at First Friends

**Aim! Flick! Skim!**

**Celebrating the "5 Skip" Milestone!**

Come enjoy an afternoon of music focused on the numbers  
 5, 50, and 500

Your "Counters":

Jeanette Wong, piano

Beverly Howard, organ

Sunday, June 4 at 3 pm

in the Meeting House

A free will offering will be taken

This program is kid friendly and fun



*Please  
 remember in  
 prayer  
 those Friends  
 unable to  
 worship with  
 us regularly.*

**Peggy Anderson**  
**Audrey & Carlos Bailey**  
**Helen & Jack Carlisle**  
**Phil & Liz Ellis**  
**Rose Nedrow**  
**Maureen Russell**  
**Vi Smith**  
**Ami Troedsson**  
**Sue Walker**  
**Gerry Wolfe**